# EMERGENCY RESPONSE REPORT

# FOR

# MID-VALLEY PIPELINE SPILL
# 32.652840° NORTH, 93.981800° WEST
# MOORINGSPORT, CADDO PARRISH, LOUISIANA

Prepared for

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6**
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# PROJECT SUMMARY

This final report describes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) response actions at the Mid-Valley Pipeline Spill emergency response near Mooringsport in Caddo Parrish, Louisiana. The incident site is located along the Mid-Valley Pipeline Company (Mid-Valley) pipeline right-of-way at milepost 51.5, Latitude 32.65284° North and Longitude 93.98180° West. The detailed report follows this page, and all attachments are provided as separate portable document format (PDF) files.

On 13 October 2014 at approximately 1417 hours, Sunoco Logistics Partners LP (Sunoco) notified the National Response Center (NRC Report No. 1098151/1098153), and the NRC notified the EPA Region 6 Prevention and Response Branch (PRB) hotline of an oil spill into Miller Branch Creek of Tete Bayou near Mooringsport, Caddo Parrish, Louisiana. According to the NRC, approximately 4,000 barrels of crude oil was spilled into the environment. In response to the NRC report, EPA-PRB activated the EPA Region 6 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-3) contractor, Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®) to respond to the incident. START-3 mobilized to the site on 13 October 2014 to provide technical support, to compile photographic and written documentation of site response activities, and to compile documentation of the costs incurred for the response actions. During the response phase, the EPA team conducted routine inspections of the impacted areas and documented that as of 7 November 2014, approximately 2,746 barrels of oil was recovered and transported to the Sunoco Haynesville Station located in Haynesville, Louisiana. Approximately 4,073 barrels of oily liquid and 1,940 cubic yards of soil were transported off-site for disposal. The EPA team demobilized from the site on 6 November 2014.

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This report was prepared to describe the technical scope of work that was completed as part of Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. 2/WESTON-042-15-001/TO-0002-42-15-01. EPA Federal On-scene Coordinator (FOSC) William Rhotenberry provided direction for the response, and the START-3 Project Team Leader (PTL) was Sean Gavlas.

☐ The EPA Task Monitor did not provide final approval of this report prior to the completion date of the work assignment. Therefore, Weston Solutions, Inc. has submitted this report absent the Task Monitor's approval.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On 13 October 2014 at approximately 1417 hours, Sunoco Logistics Partners LP (Sunoco) notified the National Response Center (NRC Report No. 1098151/1098153, Attachment E), and the NRC notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Prevention and Response Branch (PRB) hotline of an oil spill into Miller Branch Creek of Tete Bayou near Mooringsport, Caddo Parrish, Louisiana. According to the NRC, approximately 4,000 barrels of crude oil was released into the environment. EPA-PRB activated Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®), the EPA Region 6 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-3) contractor, to initiate a Tier 1 Response with the primary tasks of providing technical support, of compiling photographic and written documentation (Attachments F and G, respectively), and of documenting the costs incurred for the response actions. Geographic coordinates of the Mid-Valley Pipeline Spill location were obtained using a Global Positioning System (GPS). The coordinates are Latitude 32.652840º North and Longitude 93.981800º West. A Site Location Map, a Site Area Map, Surface Water Pathway Map, and a Site Sketch Map are included as Attachments A, B, C, and D, respectively.

## 2. BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2014, a spill of crude oil occurred from a 20-inch pipeline owned by Mid-Valley Pipeline Company (Mid-Valley), located near Mooringsport, Louisiana at milepost 51.5. Sunoco owns 91% of Mid-Valley and is the designated Responsible Party (RP). Sunoco first reported to the NRC a drop in pressure in the pipeline at approximately 0830 hours on 13 October 2015 and remotely isolated the failure point. After securing the pipeline, a Sunoco reconnaissance team was sent to the area where the drop in pressure was observed. The Sunoco reconnaissance team discovered the location of the pipeline failure at approximately 1130 hours. From the failure point, crude oil entered into the Miller Branch Creek of Tete Bayou, which feeds into Caddo Lake. A map of the surface water pathway is included as Attachment C.

The Sunoco initial volume estimate of crude oil spilled, based on a topographical "drain down" calculation, was 4,000 barrels. After refill and restart of the pipeline on 26 October 2014, Sunoco engineers calculated a new discharge volume estimate of 4,509 barrels.

## 3. ACTIONS TAKEN

The EPA Team arrived on-site at approximately 2030 hours on 13 October 2014. During the initial assessment, crude oil was observed in Miller Branch Creek of Tete Bayou near a bridge located on Caddo Parish Road 121, Latitude 32.655381° North, Longitude 93.989273° West. The RP and their Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO), OMI Environmental Solutions (OMI), were utilizing a vacuum truck to recover free standing oil that was then transported to frac tanks staged on Hereford Road in Mooringsport, Louisiana. The RP and the OSRO contractor reported they had contained migration of the crude oil approximately 0.5 mile upstream of Caddo Lake.

On 13 October 2014, the RP initiated oil recovery at two locations: Parish Road 121 (Upstream Collection Point 1 [UCP1]) and the Hereford Road bridge (Downstream Collection Point 1 [DCP1]). The RP also identified the extent of the oil migration and installed hard boom for containment. Recovery operations continued throughout the night at UCP1.

On 14 October 2014, an incident command post was established at 8905 Greenwood Road in Greenwood, Louisiana, and the Unified Command was organized to support the incident. The RP resources were increased to approximately 60 people and consisted of personnel from Sunoco Logistics Partners LP, Walker-Hill Environmental, Inc., Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Inc., Oil Mop, Inc., Garner Environmental Services, ISI Solutions, Inc., and The Response Group Inc. Unified Command then divided the spill pathway into five divisions (A-E) to better manage cleanup efforts. These divisions are shown in Attachment D.

Crews utilized vacuum trucks at three collection points to recover crude oil from the impacted watershed: UCP1, DCP1, and Downstream Collection Point 2 (DCP2). UCP1 is located approximately 0.5 mile downstream of the spill origin. DCP1 and DCP2 are located at the intersection of the spill pathway and Hereford Road. An underflow dam was also constructed directly upstream of DCP1 and DCP2.

On 15 October 2014, the RP recovery team continued to increase recovery operations by employing an additional 40 OSRO contractors to assist with the removal of oil-impacted debris in the spill pathway. Vacuum truck operations continued at UCP1, DCP1, and DCP2. Additional oil recovery operations using vacuum trucks were conducted at Upstream Collection Point 2 (UCP2)

and Midstream Collection Point 1 (MCP1). UCP2 is located approximately 1 mile downstream of the spill origin. MCP1 is located approximately 1.75 miles downstream of the spill origin. The RP recovery team continued the removal of oil-impacted debris in the spill pathway. Additional underflow dams were installed at each of the new collection points. Additionally, the RP retained access to a large private pond in the area, and constructed a water transfer system to assist in flushing operations upstream of UCP1.

All recovered oil/water was transported to the Hereford Road staging area and transferred to frac tanks for separation. Additional containment efforts included the construction of a second underflow dam approximately 400 feet downstream of DCP1 and DCP2 and the deployment of additional sorbent and hard boom in the spill pathway. As a precautionary measure in anticipation of a major rain event, additional sorbent and hard boom was also deployed beyond the outfall of Tete Bayou into Caddo Lake.

To assist response actions minimize impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife, EPA issued a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) on 15 October 2014. Total wildlife collected, dead and alive, was an estimated 534 animals. A detailed breakdown of recovered wildlife is included in the ICS 209 Forms provided to EPA by the Sunoco contractor, The Response Group, and included in Attachment I.

During the period of 16 October through 22 October 2014, the RP increased personnel to a total of approximately 300 and installed additional collection points (Crest Underflow Dam Collection Point [CUDCP] and Cemetery Road Collection Point [CRCP]). Additional federal assets deployed to the spill included one EPA Planning Section Chief (PSC) and two additional START-3 contractors.

On 23 October 2014, flushing operations utilizing pond water, and a constructed water transfer system began approximately 2,000 feet upstream of UCP1. Vacuum truck operations continued at all collection points, transporting all recovered oil/water to frac tanks staged at the Hereford Road staging area. In an effort to return evacuated residents to their homes, the RP submitted a Homeowner Re-Entry Plan to EPA for review. Following EPA review, the Homeowner Re-Entry Plan was approved by Unified Command.

On 19 October 2014, Unified Command implemented the Home Owner Re-Entry Plan for two residents that were evacuated during the emergency response. The EPA Team and Sunoco contractors conducted air monitoring along the perimeter of each residents' property for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with no detectable readings. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) informed the residents that the evacuation order had been lifted and the residents were permitted to return to their homes. One resident decided not to return to their home due to odors in the area and a pre-existing respiratory condition.

Following the implementation of the Home Owner Re-Entry Plan, the LSP transferred the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) authority to the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) official on-site.

On 22 October 2014, the EPA Team set out to measure the exact distance of the spill pathway. Using a GPS tracking device, the EPA Team determined the impacted spill pathway included 10 miles of Miller Branch Creek and Tete Bayou. The initial estimate of 4 miles was created using a straight line measurement from the spill origin to the mouth of Caddo Lake, which did not account for the winding of the spill pathway.

During the period of 23 October through 28 October 2014, the RP increased personnel to a total of 457. In addition to free standing oil recovery and impacted soil and debris removal, an engineered, "semi-permanent" underflow dam was constructed directly south of the Hereford Road Bridge. This underflow dam was constructed to withstand a heavy rainfall and to contain any remaining oil flushed from the spill pathway during such an event. All other underflow dams and earthen dams were removed during this operational period to facilitate flushing of the spill pathway. During this timeframe, approximately 15 federal, state, and local representatives were on-site monitoring operations. U.S. Fish and Wildlife demobilized from the site, and reported to the Unified Command, they were available to return if needed.

On 25 October 2014, a Weather Contingency Plan was created and approved by Unified Command. The plan called for the booming of all operational drinking water intakes, environmentally sensitive areas, and the staging of extra resources for immediate deployment in the event that a heavy rain would result in oil impacting Caddo Lake. The plan was activated on 27 October 2015 in preparation for a rain event.

On 26 October 2014, the newly replaced pipeline underwent hydrostatic testing, was refilled and became operational. All repairs and restart operations were conducted under the supervision of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

By 28 October 2014, the majority of free standing crude oil was removed from the spill pathway. Isolated pockets of crude oil remained in some areas with heavily oiled banks that required flushing and washing. Oil collection in the remaining areas of concern was primarily completed by hand, using sorbent pads and boom.

During the period of 29 October through 4 November 2014, the RP began reducing personnel on-site as divisions were deemed clean, and operations shifted from a Response Phase to a Monitoring and Maintenance Phase.

Between 31 October and 1 November 2014, the EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), LOSCO, SOSC, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Sunoco conducted a site walk of Divisions A, B, and C. Unified Command agreed to transition Divisions A, B, and C operations from a Response Phase to a Monitoring and Maintenance Phase.

On 4 November 2014, EPA FOSC, LDEQ, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Sunoco conducted a site walk of Division D and agreed to transition operations from a Response Phase to a Monitoring and Maintenance Phase. In anticipation of a heavy rain event, the Weather Contingency Plan was activated to mitigate oil impact to Caddo Lake.

As the response transitioned to the Monitoring and Maintenance Phase, crews continued to spot check the spill pathway for pockets of remaining oil, sheen, or oil-impacted debris. Recovery in these locations was conducted using sorbent pads and boom and by gathering, bagging, and disposing of oil-impacted debris. From 4 November to 6 November 2014, a rain event impacted the area resulting in an accumulation of approximately one inch of rain. During the rain event, the EPA Team continuously monitored the spill pathway to observe flow rates in Miller Branch Creek of Tete Bayou and to identify areas where oil or sheen had breached containment. Throughout the rain event, no oil or sheen was observed extending beyond the Hereford Road Underflow Dam or the immediate downstream boom containment. It was observed that as the spill pathway entered

Division D, the slope of the pathway approaches zero. This coupled with the backpressure of Caddo Lake resulted in minimal flow of the lower section of the spill pathway.

As of 7 November 2014, approximately 2,746 barrels of oil was recovered and transported to the Sunoco Haynesville Station located in Haynesville, Louisiana. Approximately 4,073 barrels of water and 1,940 cubic yards of soil were transported off-site for disposal.

Before the EPA team departed the site on 6 November 2014, the impacted creek area was walked one final time. The locations of concern were noted and provided to the RP cleanup crews for review. This concluded the initial response activities, and the EPA team demobilized from the site.

Additional site inspections were conducted by the EPA Team on 19 November and 25 November 2014. It was observed during each of these inspections that minimal leaching of oil from creek banks persisted near the Hereford Road Bridge. Sorbent screen and boom appeared to be effective at capturing this additional oil.

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The EPA Team conducted its final site inspection on 16 January 2015. The EPA FOSC authorized the removal of the engineered underflow dam directly south of the Hereford Road Bridge and recommended that periodic boom maintenance continue as needed.

This report was prepared as part of the requirements of Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. 2/WESTON-042-15-001 (Attachment J) and serves as documentation of work completed to date.

## 4. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

A. Site Location Map

B. Site Area Map

C. Surface Water Pathway Map

D. Site Sketch Map

E. NRC Report No. 1098151 and 1098153

F. Digital Photographs

G. Site Logbooks

H. Pollution Reports

I. ICS 209 Forms

J. TDD No. 2/WESTON-042-15-001 and Amendments